



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Division of Workers' Compensation - Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (MS-48)

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name

TEXAS HEALTH FORT WORTH

Respondent Name

WC SOLUTIONS

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-18-0170-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

MFDR Date Received

September 19, 2017

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "WC claim information was submitted in our office on 11/12/2016. This claim came in with no WC information attached. Several contacts were made to the employer to find out updated WC information. Updated information was finally received in our office at which time the patient's complete WC claim was submitted to Edwards Claims for review."

Amount in Dispute: \$499.89

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The hospital bill for DOS 11/02/2016 was initial received on 05/17/2017 as an e-bill. . . . did not include any explanation of why one or more of the exceptions for untimely submission of a medical bill under §408.0272 should be applied."

Response Submitted by: Edwards Claims Administration and Starr Comprehensive Solutions, Inc.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Dispute Amount	Amount Due
November 2, 2016	Outpatient Hospital Services	\$499.89	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and applicable rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20 sets out medical bill submission procedures for health care providers.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4 establishes rules for non-Commission communications.
4. Texas Labor Code §408.027 sets out provisions related to payment of health care providers.
5. Texas Labor Code §408.0272 provides for certain exceptions to untimely submission of a medical claim.

6. The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
 - 29 – the time limit for filing has expired.
 - W3 – Additional payment made on reconsideration.
 - 193 – Original payment decision is being maintained. This claim was processed properly the first time.
 - 29 – per rule 133.20(b), except as provided in Labor Code 408.0272(b), (c) or (d), a health care provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the services are provided.

Issues

1. What is the timely filing deadline applicable to the medical bills for the services in dispute?
2. Did the requestor forfeit the right to reimbursement for the services in dispute?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier denied the disputed services with claim adjustment reason codes:
 - 29 – the time limit for filing has expired.
 - 29 – per rule 133.20(b), except as provided in Labor Code 408.0272(b), (c) or (d), a health care provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the services are provided.

28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20(b) requires that, except as provided in Texas Labor Code §408.0272, “a health care provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the services are provided.”

Texas Labor Code §408.0272(b) provides that, notwithstanding Section 408.027, a health care provider who fails to timely submit a claim for payment to the insurance carrier under Section 408.027(a) does not forfeit the provider's right to reimbursement for that claim for payment solely for failure to submit a timely claim if:

- (1) the provider submits proof satisfactory to the commissioner that the provider, within the period prescribed by Section 408.027(a), erroneously filed for reimbursement with:
 - (A) an insurer that issues a policy of group accident and health insurance under which the injured employee is a covered insured;
 - (B) a health maintenance organization that issues an evidence of coverage under which the injured employee is a covered enrollee; or
 - (C) a workers' compensation insurance carrier other than the insurance carrier liable for the payment of benefits under this title; or
- (2) the commissioner determines that the failure resulted from a catastrophic event that substantially interfered with the normal business operations of the provider.

No documentation was presented to support that any of the exceptions described in Texas Labor Code §408.0272 apply to the services in dispute. For that reason, the health care provider was required to submit the medical bill not later than 95 days after the date the disputed services were provided.

2. Texas Labor Code §408.027(a) states that “Failure by the health care provider to timely submit a claim for payment constitutes a forfeiture of the provider's right to reimbursement for that claim for payment.”

28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4(h) states that, unless the great weight of evidence indicates otherwise, written communications shall be deemed to have been sent on:

- (1) the date received, if sent by fax, personal delivery or electronic transmission or,
- (2) the date postmarked if sent by mail via United States Postal Service regular mail, or, if the postmark date is unavailable, the later of the signature date on the written communication or the date it was received minus five days. If the date received minus five days is a Sunday or legal holiday, the date deemed sent shall be the next previous day which is not a Sunday or legal holiday.

Review of the submitted information finds no documentation to support that a medical bill was submitted within 95 days from the date the services were provided. Consequently, the requestor has forfeited the right to reimbursement due to untimely submission of the medical bill, pursuant to Texas Labor Code §408.027(a).

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based on the submitted information, pursuant to Texas Labor Code Section 413.031, the division hereby determines the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 additional reimbursement for the services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

_____	<u>Grayson Richardson</u>	<u>October 20, 2017</u>
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, effective May 31, 2012, *37 Texas Register 3833*, **applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.**

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the Division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the Division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MFDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.